

December 8, 2012

Issued as of 9:15 p.m.

Travel Alert extended statewide to cover all areas throughout North Dakota

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) and the North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP) have extended a **Travel Alert** statewide for all regions throughout North Dakota due to areas of blowing and drifting snow with increasing accumulations expected overnight. This **Travel Alert** includes areas surrounding the cities of Williston, Minot, Dickinson, Bismarck, Jamestown, Valley City, Devils Lake, Grand Forks, Fargo and Wahpeton.

Motorists are urged to use caution as this winter weather event intensifies across North Dakota potentially causing road conditions to deteriorate throughout the night continuing to Sunday. For road information, call 511 from any type of phone or go to the website: www.dot.nd.gov.

NDDOT releases information to inform the public about travel conditions throughout the state. The three categories are as follows:

1. **TRAVEL ALERT** – Motorists can still travel but may encounter areas of challenging winter weather driving conditions on roadways. Motorists should allow extra time to reach their destination and be alert to conditions that may make travel difficult, change rapidly, or cause travel delays. A TRAVEL ALERT has the potential to change to a NO TRAVEL ADVISED if conditions deteriorate.
2. **NO TRAVEL ADVISED** – Motorists should not travel due to hazardous conditions which may make it unsafe to travel. Snowplows may be pulled from the roads during severe conditions. Motorists should take NO TRAVEL ADVISED seriously as those motorists who choose to travel at their own risk may become stranded and emergency responders may not be able to reach them safely. A NO TRAVEL ADVISED has the potential to change to a ROAD CLOSED OR BLOCKED if conditions deteriorate.
3. **ROAD CLOSED OR BLOCKED** – Motorists are not allowed to travel on a closed road due to life threatening conditions. The road may be impassible or blocked. Motorists who drive past a road closure device may be fined up to \$250.

Please be advised that road condition information on 511 and the travel map is updated daily from 5 a.m. until 9 p.m. CDT. The road report is based upon the information available to the NDDOT at the time of preparation and is provided solely as a public service. Conditions may vary from those reported.

If you become stranded, motorists should stay with their vehicle and call 911 for emergency assistance.